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University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "UM slates law weekend '90" (1990).
University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present. 11905.
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April 2, 1990

UM SLATES LAW WEEKEND '90

MISSOULA --

Montana Supreme Court hearings, alumni reunions and the Barristers' Ball are among the highlights of Law Weekend '90 at the University of Montana.

The UM School of Law has scheduled Law Weekend events from Thursday, April 5, through Saturday, April 7. In addition, the law school has set this year's Blankenbaker Lecture on Professional Responsibility for 10:20 a.m. Wednesday, April 11, in the Law School Library. John Edward Sexton, dean of the New York University School of Law, will present the 12th annual lecture.

UM's Law Weekend doubles as an informational event, open to the public, and a reunion gathering for law school alumni. Festivities begin at 3 p.m. Thursday with two events: the Res Judicata 5 kilometer footrace in Greenough Park and a Women's Law Caucus reception for Montana Supreme Court Justice Diane Barz and District Court Judge Dorothy McCarter, 13th Judicial District, in the law school's Pope Room. The Smoker, the law school's annual faculty roast, featuring skits, music and food, begins at 6 p.m. at the Orchard Homes Country Life Club. Skits begin at 7 p.m.

On Friday, area residents will have the opportunity to observe the Montana Supreme Court in formal session while the justices hear

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LawWeek.rl -- 2

two cases in the Montana Theatre of UM's Performing Arts and Radio-TV building. Arguments in each case will be preceded by an overview and introduction by UM law Professor David J. Patterson.

At 10 a.m., the state's highest court will hear arguments in the case of James F. Lechner, the Home Builders Association of Billings, et al, vs. the city of Billings. The principle issue before the court is whether the city is prohibited by state law from establishing a fee for water service. A larger issue involves the power of local governments to provide local services.

The second case, at 2 p.m., is Julie DeCelles vs. the state of Montana, acting through the Department of Highways, and Ray Elden Eder. The case involves a damage suit against the state, based on claims that an accident was caused by a roadway defect and lack of proper maintenance.

Friday night is reserved for class reunions and the Barristers' Ball, which begins at 8 p.m. in the Holiday Inn Missoula-Parkside. A 50-year Law Review reunion is scheduled for 6 p.m. Saturday at the Village Red Lion's Lewis and Clark Room, with a banquet at 7 p.m.

Continuing legal education (CLE) courses on a variety of topics are scheduled for Friday and Saturday at the law school. Participants who attend both days' sessions can earn 11 CLE credits.

For more information, call the law school at 243-4311.

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